

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2023

The Honorable Merrick Garland  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland,

We are writing to raise concerns about the potential violations of U.S. campaign laws, and potentially the Foreign Agents Registration Act, by New York Representative George Santos (NY-03). The Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) was enacted in 1938. FARA requires certain agents of foreign principals who are engaged in political activities or other activities specified under the statute to make periodic public disclosure of their relationship with a foreign principal. As well, it requires disclosure of activities, receipts and disbursements to facilitate evaluation by the government and the American people of the activities of such persons in light of their function as foreign agents.

We have included a number of news citations that report Rep. Santos' likely dealings with Russian oligarchs, raising serious concerns about potential violation of U.S. campaign laws. Further, and arguably, if any of his campaign funds came from Russian sources, which seems possible, the potential for his acting as a Foreign Agent should be included in a FARA inquiry. Keeping our nation safe from our adversaries has taken a new face, and threats from within are also a task that we must take into account when conducting investigations.

Over the past year our country has had many encounters that could have put the American people and national security at risk. Russia has shown a great interest in infiltrating our political realm. As mentioned in the attached, Rep. Santos' campaign warrants scrutiny. The funding of Rep. Santos campaign has come into question following disclosure that he lent his campaign \$700,000 in funds from his company, Devolder Organization. It has been reported that Devolder Organization was formed one month before Rep. Santos declared his candidacy. Rep. Santos also received campaign donations from Andrew Intrater (the cousin of sanctioned Russian billionaire Viktor Vekselberg, who has close ties to the Russian President) and his wife during his 2022 campaign.

Rep. Santos' official financial disclosures have also come into question. He certified in a 2020 financial disclosure that he had no assets and no earned income. Now it has been disclosed that the Devolder Organization paid him some \$3.5 million over the last two years. Lacking accompanying information, Rep. Santos' dramatic increase in income has resulted in serious questions about his ability to uphold his sworn Oath of Office.

Russia has proven time and again its willingness to see American democracy falter. As such we must be prepared to combat these attacks wherever they occur.

Our concerns about the applicability of FARA predated but are underscored by the recent disclosure of allegations, specifically those concerning Charles McGonigal, the former head of counterintelligence for the FBI New York Office. His arrest on January 21, 2023 for allegedly taking \$225,000 in cash from an employee of a foreign intelligence service are cause for alarm. I know you take these accounts seriously and urge further diligence before it is too late. A FARA review of Rep. Santos' dealings is an important step to ensure the integrity of his actions and those he will take as a newly sworn federal office holder. Further, as Attorney General, your advice on how Congress can assist you to provide additional oversight capabilities, particularly in the area of Russian interference in American governance and its political system, are welcomed. The landscape and complexities of this investigation is constantly changing, the flow of information should be watched closely for updates.

Thank you for your service and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson  
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress

## References:

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[4] D. Goldiner, **George Santos scored donations from Russian oligarch's cousin accused of being go-between in Stormy Daniels hush money deal**, Daily News, January 16, 2023.

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[6] H. Vazquez, **Jorge Santos Had Shady Business Ties With Russian Money Man**, BusinessNews, January 16, 2023.

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[8] K. Blaine, **Rep.-elect George Santos admits to lying about bio, but says he still intends to serve in Congress**, CNN, December 27, 2022.

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